

## **Cuba**

Cuba, the largest island in the Antilles archipelago in the Caribbean Sea, is located 145 km (90 mi) south of the United States across the Florida Straits. Positioned between the Gulf of Mexico and the Atlantic Ocean, Cuba was discovered by Christopher Columbus on Oct. 27, 1492, during his first trip to the New World. It remained a Spanish colony until 1898. Cuban governments were mostly authoritarian, with brief periods of democratic rule in the 1940s and early 1950s. The success of the guerrilla movement of Fidel CASTRO in 1959 ushered in the Cuban revolution and the creation of the only Communist state in the Americas, which had close ties for years with the USSR.

### **LAND AND RESOURCES**

Cuba is about 1,200 km (750 mi) long, with a median width of 97 km (60 mi) and a maximum width of 200 km (125 mi). The republic includes the ISLE OF YOUTH (formerly, Isle of Pines) to the south and numerous keys and islets. Gulfs, inlets, and bays are found in its coasts. The larger rivers are navigable by small vessels.

### **Topography**

The island's topography is varied. Sixty percent of the total surface is plain, with the rest in hillsides and mountain ranges. Pico Turquino, in the Sierra Maestra range in the southeast, reaches to 1,994 m (6,542 ft) and is the highest peak. Other important ranges are the Escambray in central Cuba and the Sierra de los Organos in the island's western part. The longest river is the Cauto, running for 257 km (160 mi) in a westerly direction across Santiago de Cuba and Granma provinces. Beaches on Cuba's northern coast, such as Varadero, attract throngs of tourists and are known for their pure white sand and clear blue green waters. Several deep-water ports, such as HAVANA, SANTIAGO DE CUBA, CIENFUEGOS, and Nipe, handle foreign commerce. Merchant and fishing fleets operate from smaller ports along both coastlines.

### **Climate**

A moderate and balmy climate prevails. Seasonal median temperatures range from 18 deg C (66 deg F) to 30 deg C (86 deg F), but humidity is often high. The rainy season runs from May to October, and dry weather prevails between December and April.

### **Resources**

Cuba has extensive nickel reserves. Cobalt, iron, manganese, and copper are also found. There is little oil, but domestic production totals between 3% and 4% of consumption requirements. The government is carrying out a nuclear power program, and hydroelectric energy is generated.

### **PEOPLE**

Cuba's principal racial groups are mulattoes (mixed black and white), whites, and blacks. Ethnic or racial conflict is quite rare. Spanish is the national language, and Roman Catholicism is the principal religion, but Marxist-Leninist ideology dominates secular life.

### **Demography**

The capital, Havana, is the largest city. SANTIAGO DE CUBA is the second largest city, followed by CAMAGUEY. The population is mostly young, and the country does not have a high rate of population growth.

### **Education and Health**

The government is in charge of all educational institutions; private and religious education has been abolished. School attendance is mandatory, and Cuba has one of the highest literacy rates in Latin America. Political criteria affect admission to the universities, but education is free for all citizens. Technical and scientific subjects are emphasized over more traditional studies. The University of Havana is the leading institution of higher learning, but Cuba has 40 institutions of advanced training.

The government-run health system is recognized as one of the best in the Third World, with most services provided free. (Almost 25% of the government's budget goes for education and public health.) The provision of health care is

United States across the Florida Straits. Positioned between the Gulf of Mexico and the Atlantic Ocean, Cuba was the largest island in the Americas and played a vital role in the Caribbean. It was a Spanish colony until 1898. Cuban government was mostly authoritarian, with local periods of democratic rule in the 1940s and 1950s. The success of the Cuban Revolution in 1959 marked the beginning of the Cuban Revolution and the creation of the only Communist state in the Americas, which had close ties for years with the Soviet Union and the Eastern Bloc.

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The above information was obtained from a review of the records maintained by the Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C., and is being furnished to you for your information.

Sincerely,  
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the 1980s, the 1990s, and the 2000s. The 1980s saw a significant increase in the number of people who were employed in the service sector, which was a result of the growth of the economy and the increasing demand for services. The 1990s saw a significant increase in the number of people who were employed in the manufacturing sector, which was a result of the growth of the economy and the increasing demand for manufactured goods. The 2000s saw a significant increase in the number of people who were employed in the information sector, which was a result of the growth of the economy and the increasing demand for information services.

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Today's prominent racial groups are traditional (black and white) whites and black. Ethnic or racial conflict is still rare. Ethnicity is the national language and German. Conflicts in the region are not. In the past, the ideology of separatism was not the

Unanswered:

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 .itwont podidasey lo uca, nida = asad tch esot, vtruqon sal bur gnufoz vize-oro ai nolhisirtoq edf?

What's the deal?

There are 40 institutions in education in Cambodia. The University of Phnom Penh is the leading institution of higher learning, but offers admission to the university, but education is free for all citizens. Technical and scientific subjects are compulsory for all students. The Government is in charge of all educational institutions; private and religious education has been abolished. General education is mandatory, and Cambodia has one of the highest literacy rates in South America. Political officers

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highly decentralized: residents have access to services in neighborhoods, schools, and the workplace, as well as in clinics and hospitals. Hundreds of Cuban doctors, nurses, and specialists serve in several Third World countries.

### **The Arts**

Artistic expression is conditioned by political criteria, and the culture is affected by Marxist ideology as well as by traditional Spanish and African influences. Expression is watched by the state, dissent is forbidden, and nonconformity is frowned upon. The state controls the press, which is generally of low quality. Ideological pressures and subtle forms of censorship affect the content of literature, cinema, and theater. Many writers and artists have left Cuba; an exception is the novelist Alejo CARPENTIER. Another of Cuba's leading cultural figures is the prima ballerina Alicia ALONSO, who founded the Ballet de Cuba.

### **ECONOMIC ACTIVITY**

Sugar is the principal cash crop, and sugar exports bring in 85-90% of total foreign exchange earnings. The industry employs nearly 500,000 workers. In the late 19th and early 20th century, U.S. ownership of sugar mills and lands was common, but domestic capital also participated in production. Since 1959 the industry has been nationalized and, to some extent, modernized. Factories, utilities, large farms, and most other units of production were nationalized in the 1960s. Government planners determine what is to be produced by industry and agriculture; prices are regulated, and quotas established for farms, factories, sugar mills, and so on. The government emphasizes the production of collective goods over consumer items. Scarcity prevails, but basic needs are met. Despite modest rates of economic growth in the 1980s, Cuba has fallen short of production goals in sugar, citrus fruits, tobacco, and other commodities.

#### **Manufacture and Mining**

Nickel is the principal mineral, accounting for two-thirds of all mineral output. Cuba is one of the world's largest exporters of nickel, and it has the fourth-largest reserves. Oil, copper, chrome, and salt are mined in small quantities. Steel is also manufactured, but imports are necessary. Other manufactures include foodstuffs, canned fruits and vegetables, and canned fish. Cement is produced, as are textiles and light equipment.

#### **Agriculture and Fishing**

Potatoes, rice, sweet potatoes, and eggs make up the bulk of nonsugar agriculture. Tobacco and citrus are produced and exported; tobacco is grown mostly on small, private farms. State farms and collective farms organize rural producers. Cattle raising has not been successful, and meat and milk are rationed. Fish production has risen.

#### **Foreign Trade**

The collapse of communism in the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe cost Cuba markets, credits, investments, and billions of dollars in technical assistance. As a result, little or no economic growth is evident, consumption has declined dramatically, and services have been cut. A major and continuing problem is a severe shortage of hard currency. Cuba must find new markets for its sugar exports—still the economy's mainstay—as well as expand programs in tourism, biotechnology, and pharmaceuticals. It earned some \$400 million from tourism in 1991, but still owed some \$25 billion to Russia and \$5-6 billion to capitalist countries. It aims to expand its trade with Latin America, China, and several members of the Commonwealth of Independent States. Because the U. S. economic embargo is still in effect, there are no commercial or financial ties between the two countries.

### **GOVERNMENT**

Cuba is a one-party state, with the Cuban Communist party (PCC) as the only legally recognized party. The party's position is dominant; it oversees all aspects of government and national life. Total party membership is about 485,000.

Cuba's socialist constitution came into effect in 1976. It outlines the rights, duties, and responsibilities of citizens and establishes the government and electoral systems. The Organs of People's Power (OPP) function as local governments in each of 169 municipalities. Delegates to the provincial assemblies and the National Assembly will be elected directly by the people as changes approved by the Communist party in 1991 go into effect. The party will still closely monitor the process through which candidates are selected.



## HISTORY

Indian tribes, who lived by subsistence agriculture and fishing, inhabited Cuba at the time of its discovery (1492) by Columbus. The Spaniards quickly conquered the Indians. Cruel treatment and disease destroyed many Indians, who supplied the labor for Cuba's early development. Gradually, the cultivation and processing of sugar came to dominate the economy, linking Cuba to world markets. Hundreds of thousands of black slaves were imported over two centuries, and slave labor contributed to the expansion of the sugar industry.

Minor rebellions and conspiracies were common in the 19th century, but Cuban efforts to wrench free from Spain did not succeed until 1898. The TEN YEARS' WAR (1868-78) proved a bloody and costly affair, as did the War of Independence (1895-98), in which the United States finally intervened (see SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR). The leaders of the independence movement were Jose MARTI, Maximo Gomez, and Antonio Maceo. The United States occupied Cuba from 1898 to 1902 and then turned Cuba into a protectorate after independence. U.S. capital flowed into Cuba, and the United States exercised substantial political influence.

Political crisis and corruption were common. U.S. military contingents returned to Cuba in 1906, 1912, and 1917 to restore stability and protect private interests. Governments had little legitimacy, and democratic values did not shape political competition. A progressive constitution went into effect in 1940, ushering in a period of democracy. The democratic interlude under presidents Fulgencio BATISTA, Ramon GRAU SAN MARTIN, and Carlos Prio Socarras lasted until 1952, when a coup by Batista restored authoritarian rule. Insurrectional movements emerged in the 1950s, and Batista was overthrown by Fidel Castro's guerrillas in 1959.

A nationalist and popular revolution moved forward, substantially supported by the middle class. The revolutionary regime enacted reform laws and proceeded to change the character of society. It soon became evident that a radical socialist revolution was under way. The regime successfully challenged U.S. economic and political interests, and it obtained economic and military assistance from the Soviet Union. The regime's power was unchallenged, but not all of its policies were well received. One million Cubans left home.

Cuba is increasingly isolated due to the collapse of communism, U.S. policy, and changes in Latin America and elsewhere. It has lost its superpower sponsor and has yet to find new allies and trading partners. Most Latin American countries have relations with Cuba and have urged its government to move toward democracy and a free-market economy. Despite chronic economic difficulties and evidence of growing political discontent, the government rejects fundamental economic or political reforms and is committed to communism. Finally, although the United States no longer views communist Cuba as a threat, it would like to see Castro's government replaced by a democratic regime. Many of some 1.2 million Cuban exiles in the United States believe that communism will eventually end in Cuba and that capitalism and democracy will return in the 1990s. A 3,000-man Russian brigade left Cuba on June 15, 1993, marking the conclusion of a three-decade military presence on the island.

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